

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 AID-05

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /106 W

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R 030700Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 235

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

USMISSION USUN

USINT BAGHDAD

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, EAID, DJ, EG, IZ, FR, YE

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF PRESIDENT GOULED'S FIRST DIPLOMATIC JOURNEY

1. THE DJIBOUTI REPUBLIC'S NEED FOR URGENT DIPLOMATIC AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WELL SERVED BY PRESIDENT GOULED'S RECENT TWO-WEEK TRIP WHICH TOOK HIM TO SANA, RIYADH, CAIRO, PARIS AND BAGHDAD. THE TRIP BEGAN ON 11 AUGUST AND CONCLUDED ON 24 AUGUST, WHEN A SPECIAL CHARTER FLIGHT OF IRAQI AIRLINES BROUGHT THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PARTY BACK TO
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DJIBOUTI.

2. ON THE FINANCIAL LEVEL, HE RECEIVED PROMISES OF \$10 MILLION FROM THE SAUDIS AND \$5 MILLION FROM THE IRAQIS. THE SAUDI CHECK WAS DELIVERED ON 27 AUGUST IN DJIBOUTI AND A PHOTO OF THE CHECK IS REPRODUCED ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THE WEEKLY REVEIL DE DJIBOUTI PUBLISHED ON 1 SEPTEMBER. THE SAUDI MONEY IS NOT EARMARKED

AGAINST ANY SEPCIFIC PROJECT. THE IRAQI MONEY IS TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

3. THE VISITS TO SANA AND CAIRO WERE DIRECTED MORE TO THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS OF ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP. THERE IS SOME CONCERN THAT LIBYA'S PRESUMED OPPOSITION TO DJIBOUTI MEMBERSHIP MIGHT CAUSE SOME PROBLEMS, BUT GOULED RECEIVED ASSURANCES IN CAIRO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO LAST MINUTE SURPRISES CONCERNING ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP. FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLA KAMIL LEFT DJIBOUTI FOR CAIRO ON 31 AUGUST TO COMPLETE LAST MINUTE DETAILS. DETERMINATION THAT ALL SPEECHES AND COUMENTATION AT ARAB LEAGUE MUST BE OBLIGATORILY PRESENTED IN ARABIC PRESENTED A PROBLEM WHICH WAS ONLY RESOLVED BY ROUND-THE-CLOCK TRANSLATING AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH PARALYZED MOST SERVICES FOR THE BETTER PART OF THIS PAST WEEK. (NOTE: MINISTRY SOURCE TOLD CHARGE THAT OBLIGATORY USE OF ARABIC AT THIS YEAR'S ARAB LEAGUE MEETING IS INDIRECT POKE AT SOMALI PRESIDENT SAID BARRE WHO MADE SPEECH IN ENGLISH AT LAT MEETING -- APPARENTLY, HE DOES NOT SPEAK ARABIC).

4. PRIVATE VISIT TO PARIS WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL. GOULED RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT AN ADDITIONAL THOUSAND DJIBOUTI TROOPS WOULD BE TRAINED OVER THE NEXT YEAR, THEREBY PERMITTING GOVERNMENT TO ABSORB THAT MANY MORE FLCS "MILITANTS" WHO HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY AN EMBARRASSMENT AS THEY ROAM THE INTERIOR FULLY ARMED AND PROVIDING VARIOUS LOGISTICAL SUPPORT SERVICES TO BOTH WSLF AND ERITREAN FORCES.

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5. THE HIGH POINT OF THE TRIP FOR ITS PARTICIPANTS WAS THE VISIT TO BAGHDAD, WHICH WAS ARRANGED AT THE LAST MINUTE AND DELAYED THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN TO DJIBOUTI FOR TWO DAYS. ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE ENTIRE STAY IN BAGHDAD WAS EXTREMELY WELL ORGANIZED AND THE GREETINGS WERE VERY SATISFYING.

6. PRESIDENT GOULED'S TRIP IS A TRIBUTE TO THE RESOURCEFULNESS OF HIS VARIOUS HOSTS. IT WAS ONLY DECIDED AT THE LASTMINUTE THAT HE WOULD GO, AND MOSTLY BECAUSE IT WAS THOUGHT THAT ANY LOWER-LEVEL DELEGATION WOULD NOT RECEIVE PROPER ATTENTION FROM THE SAUDIS. THE DECISION WAS THE PRESIDENT'S, WHO MUCH PREFERS TO MAKE IMPROMPTU ARRANGEMENTS; IT MAY HAVE BEEN THIS ASPECT OF THE JOURNEY TO BAGHDAD WHICH EHIGHTENED THE APPRECIATION OF THE GESTURE. IN ANY CASE, DJIBOUTI LEADERS NOW BEGIN TO SEETHE VALUE OF JOINING THE ARAB CLUB, AND IT IS FORTUNATE THAT THE PRESENT MEMBERS DIPOSE OF THE CASH RESOURCES AND POLITICAL INTEREST TO MAKE THE CLUB MEMBERSHIP INTERESTING TO THE DJIBOUTIANS. AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THEIR MAJOR CULTURAL IDENTIFICATIONS AT PRESENT WOULD STILL POINT EITHER TOWARD THE HINTERLANDS OF ETHIOPIA OR SOMALIA WITH A FRENCH VENEER.

CLARKE

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